

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS23916

There is tremendous opportunity for Idaho in technology. The potential includes both current opportunities and future, unforeseen opportunities. In order to take full advantage, Idaho needs a comprehensive and nimble process for identifying and implementing tools that will benefit the state. This bill proposes a collaborative and dynamic process moving forward for providing guidance to the State's needs in regards to broadband and other technology services. Specifically, it creates a legislative oversight committee that is in charge of overseeing a two-part process. This process will guide the legislature as technology needs and opportunities evolve. The first part of the process deals solely with E-Rate eligible services: Education and libraries. The second deals with other public sector interest services, such as state agencies. The E-Rate eligible services will be guided by the Education Opportunity Network, or EON. EON will be a stakeholder board charged with exploring and taking advantage of technological opportunities, including broadband and related services that connect students to remote interactive learning. Other areas for public sector interest will be explored through the Idaho Opportunity Network, or ION. ION will be a stakeholder working group that will be charged with developing a forward thinking, adaptive process for examining potential tools to improve Idaho's use of technology across a broad array of area. Both the EON board and the ION working group are charged with reporting to the legislature and providing guidance for how to move the state forward, including needed legislation.

FISCAL NOTE

The estimated cost to the General Fund is approximately \$488,000 in FY 2016 and \$750,000 in FY 2017. The FY 2016 costs may include, as necessary: Salary and benefit costs for personnel; Board member travel costs; general operating expenses such as communication costs, administrative services, computer services, supplies, insurance, and office space charges; accounting services; legal fees and/or a contract attorney; an E-Rate Consultant; and furniture and equipment for an office space. The FY 2017 costs may include, as necessary: Salary and benefit costs for personnel; board member travel costs; general operating expenses such as communication costs, administrative services, computer services, supplies, insurance, and office space charges; accounting services; legal fees and/or a contract attorney; an E-Rate Consultant; and external audit expenses.

Contact:

Rep. Luke Malek
(208) 332-1000
Sen. Shawn Keough
(208) 332-1000